

Russ Jerd, Ph.D, 1920 - 2002

Dr. Russ Jerd, long-time member of the Engineers Club and Member of our own Barn Gang, passed away on November 9, 2002, of pancreatic cancer. Dr. Jerd was well known in the Dayton area as one of the driving forces behind Sinclair Community Colleges Engineering and Technology programs. In 1970, he joined the staff of Sinclair Community College in Dayton as Dean of Engineering and Industrial Technologies and retired in 1990 as Director of High Tech and Robotics. While at Sinclair, Dr. Jerd was responsible for development of ten Associate Degree Programs in Engineering and Industrial Technologies, fifty-six labs, growth of student enrollment from 350 to 3000, and growth in full time faculty and staff from 6 to 60. He implemented the "Early Entry" program for high school seniors earning college credit, implemented ASEP (Automotive Student Education Program) in affiliation with General Motors, implemented STEP (Success through Training and Education of Personnel) for Dayton Tool and Manufacturing Association, developed High Technology and Robotics course implementation and training, and the General Motors Fanuc Training Center and SCC Corporate Training programs.

Because of his pioneering work in developing coursework and programs for Sinclair, he was consulted by several states and colleges regarding curriculum development and recommendation in engineering technology for equipment and for transfer of students from two-year college to four-year colleges. Dr. Jerd was named National Outstanding Technical Educator by the American Vocational Association in 1990; received the Outstanding Engineer and Scientist Award from the Affiliate Societies Council of the Engineering and Science Foundation of Dayton in 1989, was elected Faculty Emeritus by Sinclair Community College Faculty in 1990, and an Inaugural Inductee of The Massena Central High School NY Athletic Hall of Fame 1990 in addition to other, numerous awards.

Dr. Jerd was born in Massena, New York, and earned his Journeyman Machinist Certificate from Alcoa in Massena just after WWII; he received his Doctoral Degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1977; he became a Registered Professional Engineer in 1975. He worked for almost thirty years at Alcoa Massena, NY. He also worked at the National Lead Company (Fernald) in Harrison, Ohio; the Geneva Metal Wheel Company (Goodyear), in Geneva, Ohio; and the General Electric Evendale in Cincinnati. He was a partner of Technology Consultants of Clayton, Ohio.

Dr. Jerd published several papers in his field, including a book on Industrial Metric Conversion; several reports for the Atomic Energy Commission and Government 'Q' Cleared Files, and earned two Target Zero Defect Awards while employed at General Electric. During WWII, he served as a Navigator in the U.S. Army Air Corps.

Russ was a professional musician for almost forty years; he had a band at Picky's in Massena, NY, and worked out of Local 809 in Watertown, NY, to play whenever the "big bands" came to the North Country. He also had a combo in Cincinnati in the 1960s. He played saxophone, flute, clarinet, and piano. He was a member and leader at Community United Methodist Church in Brookville, Ohio; The Engineers Club of Dayton; The Barn Gang of the Engineers Club; the Affiliate Societies Council; the Society of Manufacturing Engineering; Phi Delta Kappa and many other organizations. He and his wife, Edith Oyer Jerd, are benefactors of The Engineers Club, the Engineering and Industrial Technologies Division of Sinclair College, The Dayton Art Institute, The Dayton Opera, The Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, Think TV, and Community United Methodist Church.

He will be missed by family and by the professional and community associates and former students with whom he had contact. Surviving are his wife of 28 years, Edith; four children: R. Frank Jerd Jr. and wife Linda Lane of NY and FL; David J. Jerd of CA; John D. Jerd and wife Rhoda Brick and daughter Katherine; Deborah E. Jerd of CA; grandchildren: Mark R. Jerd, wife Tracie and sons Tylor R. and Blake R., Mart R. Jerd, Sean D. Jerd, Lauren E. M. Jerd, Michael Jerd; Mother of his children: Betty Harris of CA; step children: Vernon P. Brown of OH; Evan S. Brown, wife Peggy and sons Zachary Roy and Thomas Evan of PA; Preston S. Brown, wife Linda, son Scott, and step daughter and son-in-law Diane and Brian Holly; cousin Ethel Browne of NY and cousins in PA and VT; Mother-in law Bernice C. Oyer of OH; sister-in-law and husband, Drs. Ethelanne and Melvin L. Vulgamore of NH; nieces Allison Vulgamore and husband Peter Marshall of GA; Sarah and Kenneth Evans and children of MD; and many friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Mark Alexander and Frances Louise Beck Jerd. The family requests that, should you so desire, in lieu of flowers, contributions could be made to Community United Methodist Church's Building Our Future Campaign, The Engineers Club of Dayton's Renovation Fund, Hospice of Dayton or any of your favorite charities.

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Please see Page 1 for details on this event, which will be capped off with a decadent dessert buffet and traditional caroling in the Wright Room after dinner. The social committee, Diane Buchanan, Sonia Cawood, Joyce Kohli and Leatha Stewart, has undertaken a project to increase fellowship among members. If you would like to be seated for dinner with your friends or acquaintances or even just meet some new neat people, tell us ahead of time. Some of the long time members know to make up a table of those they want to sit with and tell that to Brenda at the time of reservation or to the maitre d' when they come for dinner.